

Remarks

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action dated May 1, 2008. Claims 1-12 and 20-27 are pending in this application. The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 20 and 21 under 35 USC § 102 over Ching (US 6481262); rejected claim 12 under 35 USC § 103 over Ching; indicated that claim 3 is allowed; and objected to claims 4-9 and 22-27 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but otherwise allowable.

By this Amendment, the claims are amended to conform to subject matter that was indicated to be allowable. Specifically, previously dependent claims 4, 8 and 22 have been rewritten in independent form; the limitations from allowable dependent claim 26 have been incorporated into claim 1; and claims 20, 21 and 26 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Each independent claim is now directed to subject matter that has been deemed allowable by the Examiner. Applicants reserve the right to prosecute all cancelled subject matter in a subsequent patent application claiming priority to the immediate application.

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants acknowledge the Office Action's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3, 4-9 and 22-27. The claims have been amended as discussed below, and each independent claim is directed to allowable subject matter.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claim 26, and claim 26 has been cancelled. Claim 1 is therefore directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 2, 10-12 and 27 depend from claim 1 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 1 is allowable.

Independent claim 3 was allowed by the Office Action.

Previously dependent claim 4, which was identified as being directed to allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 5-7 depend from claim 4 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 4 is allowable.

Previously dependent claim 8, which was identified as being directed to allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form. Claims 9 and 23-25 depend from claim 8 and are allowable for at least the reasons that claim 8 is allowable.

Previously dependent claim 22, which was identified as being directed to allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent form. Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claim 20 has also been cancelled. Each pending claim is now directed to subject matter that was indicated to be allowable.

Claim Rejections

The Office Action rejected claims 1, 2, 10, 11, 20 and 21 under 35 USC § 102 over Ching; and rejected claim 12 under 35 USC § 103 over Ching.

These rejections are traversed for at least the reasons asserted in the Appeal Brief filed January 21, 2008; however, various claims are amended herein for the purpose of furthering prosecution. The amendments are made without prejudice or disclaimer, and Applicants reserve the right to prosecute any cancelled subject matter in a subsequent related patent application.

The claim amendments render the rejections moot. Each claim is now directed to subject matter that was indicated to be allowable in the Office Action. Applicants request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 USC §§ 102 & 103.

Conclusion

Based on at least the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-12, 22-25 and 27 are earnestly solicited.

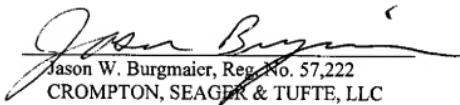
Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Miller and Scribner

By their attorney,

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